

Coins

Post-World War I German note still all but worthless

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE answers to some questions from Arts and Fun readers.

Q. — For many years, our family has owned a 100,000-mark German Reichsbanknote issued in February, 1923. We heard that certain of these notes are being paid off. Is that true? If not, is the note valuable to a collector? **L. T., Joliet**

A. — Sorry. The German government is not

redeeming the worthless notes that were issued by the millions during the inflationary period following World War I. Most varieties are common among collectors, as is your bill; it sells for less than 50 cents in very fine condition.

Q. — I have two quarters made in the mid-1800s that are part of a bracelet. Do they have any value? **O. M., Chicago**

A. — Coins usually are bent, holed, scratched, or otherwise mutilated when made into jewelry,

greatly lowering their numismatic value. Nevertheless, the bracelet might be a keepsake to a jewelry collector, especially if it is an antique.

Q. — Each year since 1973, my husband has ordered five proof and five uncirculated sets from the United States Mint. I tell him the sets are a waste of money; he says they have been an excellent investment. **T. V., Wilmette**

A. — Many dealers sell the 1975 proof and the 1973 uncirculated set for at least \$20 each, about

three times the issue prices. However, most other sets made since 1973 retail at, or just a little above, their issue prices.

OCT. 31 is the deadline to order coin sets from the Royal Canadian Mint. Collectors can buy three types of sets, ranging in price from \$16.50 to \$5.25, or a commemorative silver dollar for \$4.50. To obtain an order form, write Coins Uncirculated, Box 457, Station A. Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1N 8V5.